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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Campos DATE TYPED: 01/30/03 HB 161

SHORT TITLE: Amber Alert Law SB _____

ANALYST: Fox-Young

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
			\$0.1 Minimal		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases

Relates to HB 16, Duplicates SB 110

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Responses Received From:

State Highway and Transportation Department (SHTD)

Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)

Attorney General (AG)

LFC Files

No Response

Department of Public Safety (DPS)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 161 enacts the amber alert law, mandating the Department of Public Safety (DPS) develop and implement an amber alert notification plan. This plan would effectuate rapid dissemination of information about child abductions to local law enforcement agencies and citizens around the state.

Significant Issues

The bill gives DPS the authority to establish criteria for what constitutes child abduction for purposes of the amber alert system as well as protocol for implementation of the system. The bill

makes participation of private media outlets voluntary, and it mandates that DPS work with law enforcement agencies in bordering states to develop a regional amber alert system.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The responsibility to disseminate emergency information falls on the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and General Services Department (GSD). These agencies would have to draw on existing resources to develop and maintain the amber alert system.

State Highway and Transportation Department (SHTD) notes the department may be required to operate and transport message boards and otherwise assist in the communication effort. SHTD's degree of involvement will depend on the details of protocol from DPS.

DUPLICATES, RELATES

The bill duplicates SB 110.

The bill relates to and partially duplicates HB 16. Major differences are:

- HB 16 mandates that the amber alert system rely on state and AM radio transmission to disseminate information, and it details the procedures by which these media shall issue amber alerts. HB 161 gives DPS the authority to set the protocol by which state and private media shall issue amber alerts.
- HB 16 defines child abduction for purposes of the amber alert system. HB 161 gives DPS the authority to set the criteria for what constitutes child abduction.
- HB 16 provides a criminal penalty for knowing submission of false information resulting in the declaration of an amber alert, making it a petty misdemeanor. HB 161 does not enact a criminal penalty.
- HB 16 contains an emergency clause. HB 161 does not.
- HB 161 mandates DPS work with law enforcement agencies in neighboring states to develop a regional amber alert system. HB 16 does not.

JCF/njw